

## **Appleby Archaeology Group**

Notes of the Annual General Meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group which took place on Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the Market Hall, Appleby at 7pm.

### **Present**

Committee members: 7

Members of the group: Approximately 30

Phyllis Rouston	Chairman
Mike Godfrey	Treasurer
Carol Dougherty	Membership Secretary
Martin Joyce	Newsletter Editor
Martin Railton	Fieldwork/Research
Stephen Walker	
Richard Stevens	Secretary

### **Apologies for Absence**

Margaret Albon  
Tony Greenwood

### **Notes of the last AGM 11/01/2012**

The notes had been circulated to all members with the winter Newsletter. The notes were agreed to be a correct record. Their adoption was proposed by Margery Campion, seconded by Stephen Walker and approved by the members by a show of hands.

### **1/2013 Matters arising from the notes**

There were no matters arising.

### **2/2013 Chairman's Report**

The chairman said that she had felt honoured to represent the Group as Chairman during the year and began by thanking the membership for their excellent support at the events during 2012. She went on to thank the committee for their efforts in the administration of the Group.

She said that she had seen 2012 as a year of firsts – the first woman chairman, an all-time high membership, hitting 76 in December, and the first of many fieldwalking exercises carried out by the Group. Another first was a centre spread in the C&W Herald of the November lecture report together with photographs, great publicity for the Group. Finally, the Group had inaugurated their Facebook page, one strand of our attempt to attract younger people.

### **3/2013 Secretary's Report**

The secretary said that all the talks during 2012 had been very well attended and that he believed that this was probably due both to the high quality of the speakers and the increasing membership numbers.

Two of the summer activities had been well attended, the Ninekirks walk led by Tony Greenwood

in May attracted a good turnout, as did the following walk in June, Stephen's walk in Mallerstang. However, in July the visit to the excavation at Hornby Castle, although blessed with excellent weather, was disappointingly only attended by 5 members.

Following on from this year's walks, the committee had been discussing whether or not they should organise a longer trip to some area or place of historical and/or archaeological interest. They were thinking in terms of a 2 to 3 day trip. However, before too much effort had been expended, he wondered if the members would be interested taking part if the selected location was suitable. He said that such a trip would probably be in either June or September in order to avoid the holiday period. A show of hands indicated that approximately 10-12 members showed interest in the proposal and the secretary said that the committee would therefore look further into the idea.

The secretary went on to say that as usual, the committee had met regularly to plan the year and to keep a check on the group finances. Reports of the talks had been published in the newsletter, in the Cumberland & Westmorland Herald and eventually on the website. Information thought to be of interest to members had been circulated to their email addresses. The secretary offered to add other addresses to the circulation if required, or alternatively delete them if any member did not wish to receive the information. He asked that members keep either Carol or himself updated with any changes to email addresses. For those without email access, he explained that we always try to keep those members informed promptly of late breaking developments by phone.

The secretary took the opportunity to thank both Tony Greenwood and Martin Joyce for maintaining a very high standard of presentation with our publicity posters and newsletter and website respectively. Details of past & future events could always be found on the website and the Appleby Archaeology Group Facebook page, already referred to by the Chairman, was updated regularly with information of interest as well as late breaking news. He suggested that those with a Facebook account could look it up and tag it so that all their contacts see it. He said that we do need to bring new faces into the group and this was one way of doing so. He suggested that if any member doesn't have an account, they could ask their grandchildren to have a look for them.

#### **4/2013 Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer presented the financial report for the year. The accounts had been audited as usual by Peter Bridge and an audited report was available for inspection. The opening balance for the year was £274.10 and the closing balance £303.54, indicating that the Group had just about balanced income and expenditure. The costs of hiring the hall and paying expenses to speakers had reduced, this was because we had decided to cut the number of speakers by one, discontinuing the September talk.

The treasurer explained that a healthier balance should be expected in 2013 because of the slightly higher subscriptions voted in at last years AGM and of course by the higher membership numbers.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Martin Railton, seconded by Ray Wager & approved by a show of hands.

#### **5/2012 Fieldwork and Research Report**

Martin Railton presented the fieldwork and research report. He began by talking about the fieldwalking exercises which had been initiated after a workshop given by Annie Hamilton-Gibney early in the year. Since starting, the Group had now completed 4 fields adjacent to

Brackenber Moor, looking for signs of early habitation. More than one hundred fragments of flint had been found, as well as lead shot and a range of pottery, the earliest dating to the 15c. The distribution of finds had yet to be fully plotted. Interestingly, no early medieval pottery had been found thus far, nor had many coins been seen, although one which had was an 1874 half-crown. Martin asked for volunteers to continue with washing of finds, since there were still some items which had not been through the process. He went on to thank all the participants who had taken part in the fieldwalking and said he would be investigating further days in the coming year.

Martin explained that the Group would be included in the second year of the North Pennines AONB Altogether Archaeology Project with a survey of a number of burial mounds on Brackenber Moor together with the excavation of one of them.

Finally, he announced that the excavation report of the Druidical Judgement Seat which had been carried out in **2008/9?** had been published in the Transactions of the CWAAS in 2012.

### **6/2012 Election of Officers and Committee members**

The chairman advised the meeting that the three officers were presenting themselves for re-election and asked for approval by the meeting. No other nominations being received, the re-election of Phyllis Rouston, Mike Godfrey and Richard Stevens was confirmed by a show of hands. The chairman explained that due to pressure of work, Tony Greenwood would resign from the committee with immediate effect but would continue to produce the posters advertising meetings. Tony had originally brought the posters to meetings for members to take away to their own areas but this would no longer be possible. She explained that the posters for the various locations in Appleby could be dealt with but that someone was needed to look after the Kirkby Stephen area. Stephen Walker volunteered to do so. In addition, the villages on the Fellside were difficult to cover & xxxx offered to provide a contact for the Fellside network of village halls. The Chairman explained that the position of Vice Chairman was to be abolished but that any member was always welcome to join the committee in a non-executive role. The meeting was asked for other nominations to the committee but none were forthcoming.

All other members of the committee offered themselves for re-election. The chairman asked for any other nominations from the floor but there were none. The re-election of Carol Dougherty, Mike Godfrey, Martin Joyce Stephen Walker and Martin Railton was therefore approved unanimously by the meeting.

### **7/2012 AOB**

Ron Lyons asked if the committee could look into the possibility of paying subscriptions by Standing Order and the treasurer said he would look into the possibility and report back.. A number of members thought this was an option that the Group could take up.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Richard Stevens 10<sup>th</sup> January 2013